

U.S. Application No. 09/698,550, filed October 27, 2000
Attorney Docket No. 15258US06
Amendment dated March 30, 2009
In Response to Office Action mailed December 29, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-93 are pending in the present application. Claims 33-38 and 70-75 have been allowed. Claims 5-13, 15-31, 43-60 and 62-69 are merely objected to. Claims 1-4, 14, 32, 39-42, 61 and 76-93 stand rejected.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 33-38 and 70-75 are allowed.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 5-13, 15-31, 43-60 and 62-69 recite patentable subject matter.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 recites patentable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the patentable subject matter of claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 6-14 are in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 94-105 depend from claim 1 which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 94-105 are in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 15 recites patentable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 15 to include subject matter of intervening claim 14 and independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 15-32 are in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 142-153 depend from claim 15 which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 142-153 are in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 43 recites patentable subject matter,

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Applicants have amended claim 39 to include the patentable subject matter of claim 43. It is respectfully submitted that claim 39 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 39-42 and 44-52 are in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 106-117 depend from claim 39 which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 106-117 are in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 53 recites patentable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 53 to include subject matter of intervening claim 52 and independent claim 39. It is respectfully submitted that claim 53 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 53-60 are in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 118-129 depend from claim 53 which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 118-129 are in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 62 recites patentable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 62 to include the patentable subject matter of claim 61. It is respectfully submitted that claim 62 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 62-69 are in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 130-141 depend from claim 62 which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 130-141 are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 154 is similar to claim 1, which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 154-158 are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 159 is similar to claim 39, which is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 159-163 are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

Applicants do not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter (e.g., claimed subject matter) that has been withdrawn, amended and/or cancelled in a continuing and/or related application.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: March 30, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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